



# APFM Flood Management News



Associated Programme on Flood Management  
Newsletter No.20

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## Launch of the HelpDesk for Integrated Flood Management

The HelpDesk for Integrated Flood Management was officially launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on 17 June 2009. In their key note addresses Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations welcomed the establishment of the IFM HelpDesk and stressed the importance of an integrated approach to flood management in disaster risk reduction, specifically by addressing the underlying socio-economic conditions that exacerbate flood risks. His Excellency, Mr. Shinichi Kitajima, Ambassador of the Japanese Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva introduced the comprehensive experience in flood management in Japan and expressed the willingness of his government to support the IFM HelpDesk.

For more information about the speeches, please visit:

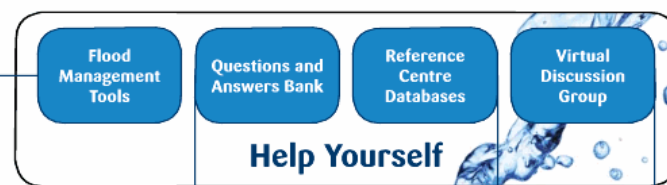
[www.apfm.info/helpdesk\\_launch.htm](http://www.apfm.info/helpdesk_launch.htm)

The HelpDesk for Integrated Flood Management is a response to the increased need for policy and strategic guidance as well as capacity building in the area of flood management on the basin and national level. The HelpDesk addresses the needs of a diverse set of actors in field of water resources management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction that address the challenges posed by floods. The main areas in which the HelpDesk provides services are shown in the illustration.

**Engage** in state-of-the art Flood Management Strategy Formulation, Policy Making and Legal Reform with full process coaching through the HelpDesk.

**Utilize** the HelpDesk in organizing advocacy workshops, awareness building campaigns and training at various levels to further integrated flood management.

**Be guided** to the right combination of information from various sources available under the HelpDesk.



**Explore** Flood Management Tools with substantive guidance on specific methodologies, technologies and concepts for implementing Integrated Flood Management.

**Browse** through the Questions and Answers Bank to find answers on frequently asked questions related to IFM and the HelpDesk.

**Use** the Reference Centre to know more about the setup in different countries in terms of flood management policy, legislative documents and literature on issues related to floods.

**Engage** in one of our Virtual Discussion Groups to learn through debate, and share experiences, knowledge and good practices.

## Some voices on the IFM HelpDesk

A panel discussed on how the IFM HelpDesk can contribute to the reduction of disaster risks including climate change was held during which panel members expressed their expectation from the IFM HelpDesk.

### Torkil Jønch-Clausen, Chair of the APFM Advisory Committee and Management Committee

"It is essential to remember that floods are not always a disaster. Large freshwater ecosystems depend on the annual floods, as is well known in the Mekong Basin, where millions of livelihoods depend on a functioning freshwater ecosystem."

### Ania Grobicki, Global Water Partnership

"The Global Water Partnership fully supports the establishment of the IFM HelpDesk - as it has supported Associated Programme on Flood Management - both providing expertise and providing access to its network of partners on the regional and national level. The real value of the IFM HelpDesk lies in its demand driven structures, available to people who are looking for help and support in addressing their flood management issues. It is a new and invaluable contribution for disaster risk reduction community. "



### Olivier Overney, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

"Switzerland supports the Associated Programme on Flood Management in order to share Swiss extensive experience in flood management. Switzerland is working towards a risk culture which requires to assess, evaluate, communicate and manage flood risk. Switzerland is also interested to learn from others how to deal with uncertainties especially due to climate change. The IFM HelpDesk is an important tool to develop and exchange those experiences."

### Philippe Gourbesville, Polytech'Nice-Sophia

"I am coordinating a network of 12 institutions involved in hydro-informatics and water management which is welcoming international students keen to learn new techniques on how to develop and implement strategies for disaster risk reduction, especially those concerned with assessment and management of floods. So it is logical for us to participate in the IFM."

### Bruce Stewart, President WMO Commission for Hydrology

"The HelpDesk we are establishing greatly enhances the ability to exchange high quality information in support of flood management practices in the countries, not least in support of the hydrological community. This is essential in view of the fact that a number of high level policy areas, especially food and livelihood security is affected by the way we manage our floodplains. The integrated flood management approach is instrumental in addressing the issues we are facing when it comes to climate variability, rapid development and land conversion and the resulting variability of river flow."

### Kazuhiko Fukami, ICHARM, Japan

"The IFM HelpDesk is a good framework for sharing experiences. Japan has developed many engineering measures in order to manage floods. But at the same time rapid implementation of structural measures had adverse impact on river environment and increase economic damages risk especially in urban areas. This is why Japan promotes an integrated approach to flood management. As part of this Japan is formulating its Climate Change Adaptation strategies. Such information can be shared through the IFM HelpDesk."

### Luis Teixeira, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

"We participated in the Training of Trainers course developed by the APFM held in Lima, Peru. This year we will offer a similar course in Uruguay. In Uruguay we are considering this type of course in regular curriculum for master degree of engineers. The IFM HelpDesk service is very attractive for us as it supports the establishment of capacity building activities."

After the launching event, Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Director General of the National Planning Commission of Namibia raised the recent floods that devastated parts of Namibia and called on the HelpDesk to assist in the process of bringing all related stakeholders together to comprehensively address the flood issue as part of development planning.

The IFM HelpDesk is pursuing an active policy of continuous improvement of the quality of service in order to suit your demand in flood management. So we would appreciate your opinion and comments on the IFM HelpDesk to [FloodManagement@wmo.int](mailto:FloodManagement@wmo.int)

### Widening Support Base Partners

Seven additional institutions have signed up as members of the HelpDesk Support Base, a decentralized network of strategic, financial and technical partners. The new members include the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, EUROAQUAE, Korean Water Forum, Korean Water Resources Association, Regional Centre on Urban Water Management, Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg and UNOSAT after the 5th World Water Forum (for a list of all partners please see [the 19th APFM newsletter](#)).



Dr. Loy Rego (ADPC), Dr. Bhichit Rattahul (ADPC), Mr Avinash Tyagi (WMO), Mr. Joachim Saalmuller (WMO)



Dr. Ivan Obrusvik (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute)



Dr. Hong Il-Pyo (Korea Water Forum)



Dr. Erik Pasche (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg)

If you are interested in promoting the implementation of integrated approaches to flood management, and willing to provide support and expertise you can become a member of the HelpDesk Support Base. Please confirm "[Framework Document](#)".

For more information about Support Base Partners, please visit: <http://www.apfm.info/helpdesk/partners.htm>

### Advisory and Management Committee meeting

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) Advisory Committee and Management Committee Meetings took place from 15 to 16 June 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland to review the progress of the programme activities for 2008/2009, as well as discuss and approve the activity plan and budget for 2009/2010. The Committees expressed overall satisfaction with progress achieved by APFM towards advocating and implementing Integrated Flood Management practices.

Selected highlights of the 2009/2010 Activity Plan include:

- The launch and operation of the HelpDesk for Integrated Flood Management;
- the development of several new flood management tools, such as a “Guidelines on Flood Mapping”, and case studies on factoring climate change in flood management;
- the continued implementation of regional and national training courses on Integrated Flood Management (e.g. in Malaysia and the Nile Basin)
- the implementation of regional field demonstration projects (e.g. in the Zambezi Basin) .



The Committees expressed their appreciation of the continued support provided to the APFM by the Governments of Japan and Switzerland. The Committees also expressed their appreciation to the WMO for their support to the APFM and for taking the necessary steps to continue the Programme beyond the current phase, scheduled to conclude in 2010. The Committee strongly welcomed the decision of the Global Water Partnership to actively support the newly established HelpDesk for Integrated Flood Management.

### Integrated approach on Transboundary Flood Risk Management

A workshop on Transboundary Flood Risk Management was jointly organized by WMO, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Governments of Germany and The Netherlands. 47 participants from 18 countries, international organizations and non governmental organizations attended the workshop with a focus on Europe and Central Asia. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the modalities of managing floods in shared river basins. Various flood management strategies and concepts were raised in a transboundary context, with various country case studies under three themes:

- flood forecasting, flood warning and exchange of data;
- flood risk management planning and implementation; and
- institutional and legal arrangements for cooperation.



For more information please visit: [http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/transboundary\\_flood\\_workshop.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/transboundary_flood_workshop.htm)

### IFM Training: Training Workshop on Integrated Flood Management for Countries in Western Asia and the Arab Region



The training workshop, jointly organized by UNW-DPC, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management - Tehran (RCUWM) took place from 11-14 May 2009 in Tehran, Iran. More than 29 participants, including top and mid-level managers and professionals in water resources management, disaster management, land use management and spatial planning, met in Tehran to share their experiences and best practices regarding the national situation of Integrated Flood Management in their countries. The main objective of the training workshop was to familiarize participants with the concept of Integrated Flood Management and

prepare them to identify possible paths of action towards implementation of the concept in their own field of work. The technical presentations and the practical exercises were designed to provide the participants with an in depth exposure to the social, economic,



environmental and institutional dimensions of flood management and allow them to develop an integrated perspective on floods, floodplains and the development process in their own country.

For more information, please visit: [http://www.apfm.info/tehran\\_workshop.htm](http://www.apfm.info/tehran_workshop.htm) and <http://www.unwater.unu.edu/article/956?menu=1>

## Announcement

### *World Climate Conference-3*

On 1 September the APFM will organize a side event during the World Climate Conference- 3 under the title "GLOBAL CHANGE AND FLOODS: Climate Information in support of Adaptation Planning"

Venue: Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland

Time : 17:30h -18:30h

For registration: [http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/index\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/index_en.html)

Please download the tentative programme at [http://www.apfm.info/pdf/tentative\\_programme\\_wcc3.pdf](http://www.apfm.info/pdf/tentative_programme_wcc3.pdf)

### *8th IAHS Scientific Assembly and 37th IAH Congress*

The joint conference will be held in Hyderabad, India from 6th to 12th September, 2009 thereby providing opportunity for the members of both Associations to interact, share and discuss their experiences, issues of mutual interest and also initiate joint research programmes to address various hydrological problems of local and global importance. WMO will co-convene the workshop HW3 "Flood Risk Management" (7-8 September 2009).

For more information please visit: <http://www.appliedhydrology.org/iahs/>